

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 4, 2006. Claims 6, 11, 13 and 16 to 33 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and new claims 34 to 40 have been added. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 12, 14, 15 and 34 to 40 are in the application, of which claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 12, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 39, and 40 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Pollack for the thoughtful courtesies and kind treatment afforded during the personal interview conducted on February 27, 2007. In the interview, the above-noted amendments to claim 1 were discussed in the context of a proposed claim. Although Examiner Pollack was prohibited from commenting on the allowability of the claim since the claim was merely a proposal at the time, he graciously indicated that prosecution of the case would be advanced by its introduction, and that the proposed claim appeared to overcome the cited references, although further search and consideration would be required.

In the Office Action, claims 1 to 6, 13 to 21, 24 to 28, and 31 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,400,381 ("Barrett") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,332 ("Malet"); claims 7 to 12, 22, 23, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Barrett and Malet in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,885 ("Olivier"). As indicated above, claims 6, 11, 13 and 16 to 33 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Furthermore, claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 12, 14, and 15 have been amended, and new claims 34 to 40 have been added to further clarify several additional features. Because the substance of the amendments and the new claims is found throughout the disclosure, including at least pages 50 to 55 of the specification, and FIGS. 37 to 45, no new matter is believed to have been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

According to the present disclosure, discrete media assets are generated from received information, each media asset including content, and the content including a plurality of discussion objects. Content metadata is generated for each media asset at an article reader based

upon the content, and at least one of the plurality of discussion objects is automatically linked with a discussion forum associated with the at least one of the plurality of discussion objects. The content metadata is compared to a filtering database at a content-based router, and the media assets are filtered at the content-based router based upon comparing the content metadata to the filtering database. At a personalized article processor, the filtered media assets are compared to a user preference database that stores media asset preference information for a user. The filtered media assets are individually prioritized for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database. At least one discussion object and the discussion forum are linked automatically. At least one individually prioritized media asset is output to the user, and the user is registered with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the discussion objects included with the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Referring to particular claim language, independent claim 1 recites a method including generating discrete media assets from received information, each media asset including content, the content including a plurality of discussion objects. The method also includes generating content metadata for each media asset at an article reader based upon the content, and automatically linking at least one of the plurality of discussion objects with the at least one of the plurality of discussion objects. The method further includes comparing the content metadata to a filtering database at a content-based router, and filtering media assets at the content-based router based upon comparing the content metadata to the filtering database. Furthermore, the method includes comparing the filtered media assets to a user preference database storing media asset preference information for a user, at a personalized article processor, and individually prioritizing the filtered media assets for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database. The method additionally includes outputting at least one individually prioritized media asset to the user, and registering the user with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the plurality of discussion objects included in the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Independent claims 39 and 40 respectively recite a computer program product and a device substantially corresponding to the method recited by independent claim 1.

The applied art does not disclose, teach, or suggest the foregoing features recited by the independent claims. In particular, neither Barrett, Malet, nor Olivier, either alone or in combination (assuming *arguendo* that such a combination were possible) are seen to disclose at least the features that: *i*) a discrete media asset is generated from received information, each media asset including content, the content including a plurality of discussion objects; *ii*) content metadata is generated for each media asset at an article reader based upon the content; *iii*) automatically linking at least one of the plurality of discussion objects with a discussion forum associated with the at least one of the plurality of discussion objects; *iv*) filtered media assets are individually prioritized for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database; *v*) outputting at least one individually prioritized media asset to the user; or *vi*) registering the user with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the plurality of discussion objects included in the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Barrett relates to establishing computer-based user communities based on user activities on the web. *See* Barrett, col. 1, ll. 6-9. In particular, Barrett is seen to define communications groupings based on users having similar Internet activity rather than on predefined groups or common access of a document. *See* Barrett, col. 6, ll. 20-24. A client proxy monitors the user's browsing activities by recording the user's requests for URLs while retrieving the user's requested documents. *See* Barrett, col. 4, ll. 42-46. The client proxy is seen to modify the returned Web pages by adding a Java script to each page to instruct the browser to create a Web Places window on the page, and load a client applet on the page. *See* Barrett, col. 4, ll. 53-57. When the applet is opened, it establishes a chat session enabling communications between the users in the communications grouping. *See* Barrett, col. 5, ll. 2-4 and ll. 8-11.

Thus, the purpose of Barrett appears to group users according to their Internet activities, in particular, the users appear to be grouped by shared URL requests. Accordingly, Barrett is not seen to disclose, nor does the Office Action assert that Barrett discloses, at least the features that: *i*) a discrete media asset is generated from received information, each media asset including content, the content including a plurality of discussion objects; *ii*) content metadata is generated for each media asset at an article reader based upon the content; *iii*) automatically linking at least one of the plurality of discussion objects with a discussion forum associated with the at least one

of the plurality of discussion objects; *iv*) filtered media assets are individually prioritized for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database; *v*) outputting at least one individually prioritized media asset to the user; or *vi*) registering the user with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the plurality of discussion objects included in the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Malet relates to a system for filtering and evaluating information through on-line debates conducted over a network. See Malet, col. 1, ll. 8-11. In particular, the system is seen to use a dynamic and decentralized filtering and evaluation process. See Malet at col. 2, ll. 55-59. The system organizes information by a proposition under contention, along with arguments and evidence that support or deny the proposition. See Malet, col. 2, ll. 62-64. A ratings process weighs arguments, references, and users based on the beliefs of the debate participants. See Malet, col. 3, ll. 16-18. The purpose of Malet is believed to be the filtering and evaluating of data to enable users to make more informed choices. Thus, Malet is also seen to fail to provide for at least the features that *i*) a discrete media asset is generated from received information, each media asset including content, the content including a plurality of discussion objects; *ii*) content metadata is generated for each media asset at an article reader based upon the content; *iii*) automatically linking at least one of the plurality of discussion objects with a discussion forum associated with the at least one of the plurality of discussion objects; *iv*) filtered media assets are individually prioritized for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database; *v*) outputting at least one individually prioritized media asset to the user; or *vi*) registering the user with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the plurality of discussion objects included in the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Olivier describes a process for dynamically matching users for electronic communication within a group forum by establishing individual user profile data and acceptance criteria for restricting interaction. See Olivier, col. 1, ll. 24-29. In particular, Olivier is seen to enable users to control which users they will communicate with within a forum through a user profile acceptance criteria. See Olivier, col. 1, ll. 24-29 and ll. 51-52. The acceptance criteria may include attributes such as the user's hobbies, location, age, gender, skills, and preferences. See

Olivier, col. 11, ll. 12-14. Based on the foregoing, it is believed that the purpose of Olivier is to provide users in an electronic forum with control over the communications they receive from the other members of the forum. Thus, Olivier is also seen to fail to provide for at least the features that *i*) a discrete media asset is generated from received information, each media asset including content, the content including a plurality of discussion objects; *ii*) content metadata is generated for each media asset at an article reader based upon the content; *iii*) automatically linking at least one of the plurality of discussion objects with a discussion forum associated with the at least one of the plurality of discussion objects; *iv*) filtered media assets are individually prioritized for the user into prioritized media assets at the personalized article processor based upon comparing the content metadata of the filtered media assets to the user preference database; *v*) outputting at least one individually prioritized media asset to the user; or *vi*) registering the user with the discussion forum linked to at least one of the plurality of discussion objects included in the at least one individually prioritized media asset.

Based on the forgoing arguments, independent claims 1, 39, and 40 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. The other rejected claims in the application are each dependent on these independent claims and are thus believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the disclosure, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

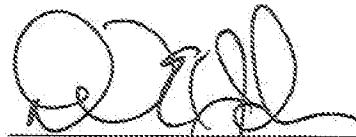
No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited.

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No fees are believed to be due at this time. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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